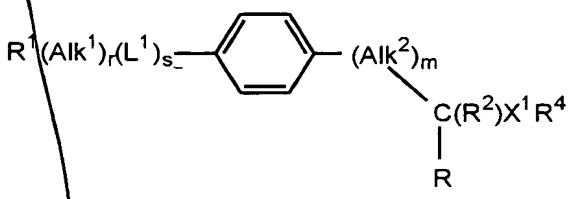
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (1a):



(1a)

wherein

R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) or a derivative thereof;

R^1 is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocyclialiphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a linker atom or group;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X^1 is a group selected from $-N(R^3)CO-$ (where R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); $-N(R^3)SO_2-$, $-N(R^3)C(O)O-$ or $-N(R^3)CON(R^{3a})-$ (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R^4 is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) group.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$ is a $-CH_2O-$ or $-CON(R^5)-$ group where R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group.

6. A compound according to Claim 5 wherein $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$ is a -CONH- group.

7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk^2 is $-CH_2-$, m is an integer 1, and R^2 is a hydrogen atom.

8. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X^1 is a -NHCO-, $-NHSO_2-$, -NHC(O)O- or -NHCONH- group.

9. A compound according to Claim 8 wherein X^1 is a -NHCO- group.

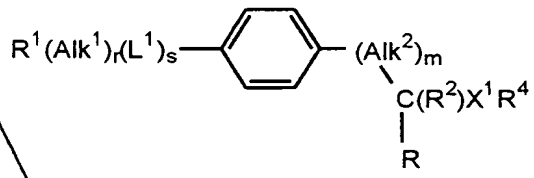
10. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6}alkyl group or an optionally substituted C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or C_{7-10}tricycloalkyl group.

11. A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-4}alkyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or adamantyl group.

12. A compound which is:
N-Isopropaloyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine.;
N-Cyclopropaloyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;
N-Acetyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;
N-(Trimethylacetyl)-*N'*-(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;
N-(1-Adamantylcarbonyl)-*N'*-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenyl alanine;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

14. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a disease or disorder involving inflammation in which the extravasation of leukocytes plays a role in a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from such as disease or disorder a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein

R is a carboxylic acid (CO_2H) or a derivative thereof;

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy or optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, hetero-cycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a linker atom or group;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1 provided that when r is zero R^1 is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X^1 is a group selected from $-N(R^3)CO-$ (where R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group), $-N(R^3)SO_2-$, $-N(R^3)C(O)O-$ or $-N(R^3)CON(R^{3a})-$ (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R^4 is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic group;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.